



HISTORY OF CARING

1974: Ohio County Youth Services System is founded.

Youth-focused, community-based group

Updated January 2024

Programs

1975: Samaritan House begins.

First emergency shelter for boys in WV

- **1983:** New **Samaritan House** is constructed at 1050 Eoff Street, Wheeling.
- **2023:** **Samaritan House** moves to 54 Indiana Street, Wheeling Island in Wheeling, WV

1981: Transitional Living Program opens.

First WV licensed independent living program for youth exiting foster care

- **1990:** **Independent Living/Training Centers** opens for 18- to 25-year-old homeless males.
- **2000:** **Tuel Crisis Center** begins in New Martinsville. *Emergency shelter*
- **2000:** **McCrary Center** opens on Wheeling Island.
Community-based services center
- 2005: Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) services begin.
RHY Basic Center Program supports care for runaway and homeless youth.
- **2005:** **Tuel Transitional Training Center** begins in New Martinsville (converted from crisis center).
For youth 18-20
- **2012:** **McCrary Center** reopens as Transitional Living apartments.
For youth 17-21 who are homeless and have special needs. Formerly a community-based services center.
- 2015: *Runaway and Homeless Youth TLP services begin.*
RHY Transitional Living Program supports care for older runaway and homeless youth. Renewed in 2018.
- **2014:** YSS becomes **Regional Youth Services Center** provider.
One of six service centers in WV for information referral, assessment diagnostic, outpatient counseling and transitional living/support services for ages 12-25 in WV

1983: Helinski Shelter begins at Grand Vue Park, Moundsville.

First emergency shelter for girls in WV

- **2017:** **Helinski Shelter** moves to Wheeling Island

1986: **Northern Regional Juvenile Center** opens.

WV's first privately operated secure juvenile facility

- **2003:** **Hope's Promise** opens.
Intensive outpatient program for youth with substance use disorders
- **2013:** **Northern Regional Juvenile Center** begins caring for females committed to juvenile corrections.
- **2014:** **Northern Regional Juvenile Center** is renamed the Ronald C. Mulholland Juvenile Center.

1990: **Elm Grove Elementary School Before- and After-care** begins

- **2013:** **After-care programs** begin at McNinch Primary and Central Elementary, Moundsville.

2005: **Project Safe Place** begins.

First and only WV Safe Place affiliate; outreach for runaway and homeless youth

2005: **Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (OCSAPC)** begins.

Youth Services System works with other community partners for prevention efforts, supported by WV's Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG).

- **2009:** **OCSAPC wins Federal Drug Free Communities Grant.**
Is refunded every grant cycle for maximum 10 years
- **2015:** **OCSAPC Faith Team** holds first **Day of Hope.**
Becomes statewide event every September to bring together faith communities in support of people in all stages of substance use disorder — active, treatment and recovery
- **2016:** **Prevent Suicide WV collaboration** begins (through Regional Youth Services Center).
- **2016:** **OCSAPC changes name to Community Impact Coalition.**
- **2019:** Inaugural **Discover Recovery** event is held at WesBanco Arena. *A treatment and recovery fair for anyone with substance use disorder or their family members/friends looking for services and information. Annual event.*
- **2019:** **YSS takes on Prevention Services.**
Department started with OCSAPC/Community Impact Coalition and includes US and WV grants that support programs such as Partnerships for Success, Northern Panhandle Prevention Consortium, State Opioid
- **2022:** **Recovery Resource & Help Center** opens in New Martinsville, WV.
- *Collaborative initiative between YSS and Take Action Wetzell County. New YSS Post Overdose Response Team is based here.*

2008: **Youth Employment and Training Program** begins.

Through Northern Panhandle Workforce Investment Board — name later changed to current Youth Opportunities Unlimited

2014: **Expanded School-Based Mental Health** services begin at Triadelphia, Moundsville, Follansbee and Wellsburg & Oak Glen Middle Schools.

- **2015:** **Expanded School-Based Mental Health** services are added at Long Drain Middle.
- **2018:** **Expanded School-Based Mental Health** expands to Brooke Intermediate South, Steenrod, Central and Long Drain Elementary Schools.

2014: **Paden City satellite office** opens.

2016: **Youth Mentoring Network** begins.

Continuing the work of Big Brothers Big Sisters after it disbanded locally

2017: YSS pilots **Quiet Minds program**.

With WVDHHR to assist youth and families following a first episode of psychosis. It becomes implemented across the state.

2017: **Sophie Moses Free Store** opens.

Serves anyone in need of clothing, shoes, household goods

2019: **Family Coordinator program and Adult/Youth Peer Recovery programs** begin (through Regional Youth Services Center).

Events

2008: **Inaugural Celebrate Youth Festival and Good Samaritan Tribute Dinner**

CY focuses on fun, achievement and healthy behaviors in a family-friendly setting (Wheeling Park). Good Samaritan honors a local person for their good deeds. Both become annual events.

2011: **Inaugural Wheeling SleepOut**

Annual peer-to-peer and team fundraiser to benefit YSS Transitional Living Program and raise awareness for Homeless and runaway youth, originally in conjunction with Safe Place and held at Wheeling Jesuit University. Moved to Miracle League Field at I-470 Sports Complex.

Response, Substance Abuse Prevention Services.

2017: **Lazarus House and Mary & Martha House** join YSS West Virginia Alliance of Recovery licensed

Recovery homes for men and women in recovery from substance use/alcohol use disorders

- **2020:** **Mark's House** opens on Wheeling Island. West Virginia Alliance of Recovery licensed *Second recovery home for men*

Past Program Innovations

1977: **Genesis Alternative Learning Center** begins.

First Ohio County alternative school for truants and dropouts

1980: **Ohio River Youth Project** opens.

A wilderness program model for at-risk youth

1983: **Alternative Learning Center** opens in Marshall County.

- 1984: ONSET Program** (Outreach Network for Sexually Exploited Teens) starts.
Street outreach to meet the special needs of teen prostitutes and sexually exploited youth
- 1984: Adolescence Substance Abuse Program** grant opens.
- 1985: Home Industry Program** starts.
A vocational program for at-risk youth
- 1988: Juvenile Restitution Program** starts.
First such program in the Northern Panhandle
- 1994: Tipton Center** opens in Weirton.
Emergency shelter for younger children
- 1997: Wheeling Community Child Care Center** merges with YSS.
Provider of day care and certified preschool services
- 2004: Bridges** begins .
School-based counseling program in Ohio and Marshall counties
- 2005: We Are The Future** starts.
A positive youth development group developing leadership skills, voluntarism and self-expression through the arts
- 2005: Support Zone** opens at Central Elementary School in Moundsville.
School-based student and parent assistance center
- 2008: Youth Achievement Center** begins.
Residential treatment for youth with intellectual challenges and emotional health needs
- **2015: New Youth Achievement Center** opens.
Repurposed building at 54 Indiana St. specially designed for the youth served by this program.
 - **2022: Youth Achievement Center** closes
- 2009: Rachel's Challenge** assembly is held at WesBanco Arena.
Brings 3,000 Ohio Valley students a positive message for better school environments
- 2009: Winter Freeze Shelter** opens.
Overnight volunteer-run shelter in YSS Hazel Atlas Building for homeless adult men and women, open from December 15-March 15
- **2020: Winter Freeze Shelter** hosted at the former OVMC
Collaborative between YSS and The City of Wheeling – due to COVID -19
 - **2022: Winter Freeze Shelter** closes
YSS relinquishes the shelter to The City of Wheeling and The Life HUB
- 2019: Temporary Emergency Housing for Women and Families**
YSS leases three apartments and finds other temporary housing for families experiencing homelessness or in danger of becoming homeless.